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Letter dated 25 July 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour of writing to you in your capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of July 2008 and would like to request your kind assistance in circulating as document of the Security Council the present letter and the annexed appeal of the Parliament of Georgia dated 11 July 2008 (see annex).

(*Signed*) Irakli **Alasania**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 25 July 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Appeal of the Parliament of Georgia to the international community, international organizations and parliaments of partner countries

On 10 July 2008, the authorities of the Russian Federation officially admitted to the fact of military aggression against Georgia, carried out through the violation of Georgian airspace by four Russian military aircraft belonging to the Air Forces of the Ministry of Defence of Russia.

Through the unprecedented admission to the fact of aggression, the authorities of the Russian Federation attempt to demonstrate to the international community that they entitle themselves, ignoring the universally acknowledged international norms and on their own will, to wage military operations and create an explosive situation in the entire region.

It is a cause of deep concern that this is not a single, isolated incident but the continuation of a series of provocations against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia, resorted to by Russia throughout these last months, namely:

Through the withdrawal on 6 March 2008 from the decision of 19 January 1996 of the Council of Heads of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Russia unilaterally rejected the restrictive regime of military cooperation with the separatist administrations and restriction of an illegal military presence in the conflict regions.

By the decision of the President of Russia of 16 April 2008, Russia in fact ignored the territorial integrity of Georgia and created the possibility of establishing direct legal, political and economic links with the separatist regimes without the consent of the Georgian authorities.

On 20 April 2008 a fighter of the Russian Ministry of Defence violated Georgian airspace, carried out military aggression and shot down an unmanned plane belonging to the Ministry of Interior of Georgia. The fact was confirmed by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations and widely condemned by the international community.

The authorities of the Russian Federation deployed its regular military units of the Ministry of Defence, the so-called "railway forces", and constructed military infrastructure on the territory of Georgia (in Abkhazia), and thus violated international norms, and the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia.

Russia deployed paratroopers in the conflict zone brought in heavy military equipments and other armament which are not provided for by the peacekeeping mandate.

Russian armed forces openly support and assist illegal armed formations of the separatist regimes, therefore actually supporting terrorism on the territory of Georgia.

It is obvious that actions of the Russian Federation obstruct the restoration of trust between Georgians and Abkhazians, Georgians and Ossetians and impede the

process of peaceful settlement of disputes, therefore even further escalating the conflicts and endangering the stability of the entire region.

The act of military aggression by the Russian Federation which took place on 8 July 2008, through the violation of Georgian airspace, confirms once again that the Russian Federation acts as a party to the conflict and has no will and ability to guarantee the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Admission to the above-mentioned act of aggression by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia is not just an open recognition of an ongoing annexation and military occupation of the two regions of Georgia, but an overt attempt to launch military operations.

The Parliament of Georgia once again confirms the necessity of peaceful settlement of conflicts and appeals to the international community, international organizations and parliaments of partner countries:

To strongly condemn the aggressive acts carried out by the Russian Federation;

To support the peaceful initiative of Georgia that provides for the modification of the existing peaceful formats and the substitution of the so-called peaceful contingents with international police forces. Otherwise, the Georgian side will be compelled to take adequate legal measures with the aim of delegitimizing and speedily withdrawing the Russian armed forces from the conflict zones in the nearest future;

To undertake relevant political and international legal measures, in order to stop provocative actions of the Russian Federation and to create a timely and effective mechanism for halting the direct military aggression of the Russian Federation against Georgia.